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to the Chairman, for his able and impartial conduct in the chair.

The following gentlemen were appointed a Committee, with powers to add to their number.

Mr. C. Kinder, Cheapside
 — C. Cooper, Fleet-street
 — Wilson, Tavistock-street
 — Whitter, Bond-street
 — Varty, Bishopsgate-street
 — Waithman, Fleet-street
 — Jones, Cheapside

Mr. Addison, Ludgate-street
 — Andrews, Ditto
 — Smith, Tavistock-street
 — Stock, Holborn
 — Willsmore, Newgate-street
 — Elliot, Fore-street
 — Johnson, Oxford-street
 — Lewis, Ditto
 — Merrington, Cheapside
 — Edwards, Coventry-street
 — S. Herbert, Bow.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From the 20th August to the 20th September, 1812.

The weather has been mild and dry for several weeks past, and the grain in all the early districts has been cut down, and a good deal of wheat brought to market and sold at a very high price. There is, however, still a good deal of oats to cut in many parts of the country.

It now appears that the crops in a general way are superior in produce to what was at one part of the season expected. Wheat is a great deal above an average crop, and the quality better than it has been for several years past, except where it has been injured by the blast which was so much complained of; although there is some reason now to hope that the malady is not as extensive as was apprehended.

The oat crops have been so much improved by the seasonable rains that fell in the two last months, that they now appear good both in quality and quantity. The late potatoes have improved far beyond expectation; yet notwithstanding the goodness of the prospect, oat-meal and potatoes have been higher in the markets until within the last week, than they have perhaps ever been known at this season.

Although flax has been an abundant crop this year, yet the prices keep up, and the demand for exportation is considerable.

The weather has been as favourable for saving flaxseed as could be desired, and its quality, where proper attention was paid to it, is extremely good.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

PERHAPS nothing more clearly shows the languid state of trade at present, than the little stir in American produce. With a war commenced, and no prospect of a peace, except through a protracted and perhaps difficult negotiation, little is doing in the way of speculation, on the probability of a rise under such circumstances. The rage for speculation which so unjustifiably seized the mercantile world in 1808, is abated, and speculators having then suffered so much, and having since been so frequently disappointed in expected advances, have learned more caution. Now and then, to aid some scheme of adventure, the revived spirit of speculation is at work, in a solitary instance or two, at the old head quarters at Liverpool, and reports totally inconsistent with facts and probability are raised, which are believed for a day, by the credulity of the people, always the dupes of flying rumours, but peculiarly so in the case of the war with America, which they seem resolved to disbelieve, contrary to the evidence of their senses.

A curious instance lately occurred, of the cullibility of a large city, which affords peculiar advantages for carrying on a deception with an appearance of plausibility, especially when credulity is a national failing. O'Brien and Lynch, of London, have lately become bankrupts, and it came out on their examination, that they had expended £2,400 in advertising their shop for the sale of linens, as being a warehouse of a large company, the Irish Linen Company, or the Belfast Linen Company, and that their assignee continued similar puffing advertisements to procure a higher value for the premises, by appearing to transfer the interests of this imaginary company. They ad-

mitted, however, on their examination before the commissioners of bankruptcy, that this company existed only in their own imagination. Such a fact affords a curious trait in the character of the times, and discovers, that the success attending on the puffing advertisements of the proprietors of quack medicines, who, with the keepers of lottery-offices, were the original inventors of the practice, is stimulating those in other trades to follow the example. The curious observer of manners may incline to think that puffing and credulity are making great inroads on national manners, and from the present prevailing fashion of opinion, and the common modes of acting, he may be induced to fear they are extending beyond the sphere of quack medicines, or the demoralizing tricks of the venders of lottery tickets. They have invaded the more honourable branches of trade, and are extending their influence over manners in general, and usurping the place of simplicity and good sense. The success of dupery in once branch, leads to an imitation in others, and thus encouraged, it is in danger of spreading its influence more extensively over the various ranks of society, and to become deeply rooted in our national character. It is full time to make a decisive stand against quackery in every line, and to discourage all attempts in puffing. Puffers should always be suspected.

As we have no longer the criterion of an open market for guineas, by which to bring the depreciation of bank-notes to the test, the price of bullion must be substituted. Gold is now from £.5 8s. to £.5 10s., and silver 6s. 8d., per ounce.* The mint prices are £ 3 17s. 10d. and 5s. 2d. In England, it appears, by the public papers, that the act prohibiting the purchase of guineas, is frequently evaded, by purchasing them with the notes of private bankers; an evasion which probably would not avail, in case of a strict prosecution, as the words of prohibition in the act, "by any other means, shift, or contrivance, whatsoever," appears to bring under the penalty. In other cases, the act is more securely evaded, by admitting no witnesses to be present at the transaction, and both buyer and seller being liable to a fine, one cannot safely inform on the other. Where there is a high profit to be made by the violation, legislative enactments are of little avail, and are easily evaded by the exertion of a little management. It is asserted, that guineas are purchased at a high premium to pay the troops in Spain, and thus the expenses of the war are greatly increased, a guinea in exchange for paper not costing less than 30s. English.

In the last report, the scarcity of the smaller bank-tokens in Ireland was noticed. In England, the state of the circulating medium is not better. The dollars re-stamped and issued at a high arbitrary denomination, and the more recently fabricated tokens of the Bank of England, degraded by a mixture of copper below the quality of the dollars, are becoming too scarce for the purposes of trade, and do not sufficiently keep pace with the depreciation of paper. To remedy this deficiency of change, John Berkeley Monck, of Coley Place, near Reading, issued some short time ago, gold and silver tokens in his own name. At the time of issuing his gold tokens for 40s., they were intrinsically worth 34s.; now in the course of a short time, from the rise of bullion, they are worth 38s. Others also have issued tokens in their own names. To put a stop to the practice, an Act of Parliament was passed last session to prevent the circulation of all private tokens in the month of March next. If the Bank of England do not previously provide a sufficient quantity of change however debased, to suit the exigencies of the times, great inconvenience will be then felt. John Berkeley Monck put a motto on his tokens, characteristic not only of their changeable property, but also of our entire paper system:—

"Labimur in pejus, donec meliora revertant."

Which may be thus translated or paraphrased, "Our evils will increase, until there is an entire change of system."

The American ships, homeward bound, run a great risque. Without British licences they are seized by British privateers. With them, American privateers seize them for sailing under British licences, and, in either case, they are liable to seizure on entering the ports of America, for a violation of the non-importation act. Thus the property rashly hurried out to America, on the first suspension of the Orders in Council, is in great jeopardy.

Exchange on London has latterly fallen, and is at $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and in Dublin it is so low as 7 to $6\frac{1}{2}$.

* Since the paragraph stating these prices was written, bullion has since risen: gold to £.5 11s., and silver to 6s. 9d. per ounce. The descent of paper is rapid!